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Assaulting Mt. Helicon: Writing and Current Affairs.

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WALT AND EL GRUPO

Was Walt Disney the first American victim of FDR's illegal spy network?

Last night I watched an old Disney cartoon called "The Golden Touch," which is a retelling of the famous Greek myth about King Midas. This cartoon has a message: if you hoard gold, you're not only stupid, but also immoral.

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"The Golden Touch" makes a special effort to ridicule the idea that 'Gold is Money' by conspicuously showing 'In Gold I Trust' signs plastered all over the foolish King Midas's palace. The phrase 'In God We Trust' has been used on American coins and dollar bills since 1864.

I'm telling you this, because Walt Disney released "The Golden Touch" at an interesting time: the cartoon came out in March 1935, about a year after Franklin Delano Roosevelt passed his 1934 Gold Reserve Act, which was proving wildly unpopular amongst the public. The act was the last in a series of unpopular gold laws:

1) In 1933, Executive Order 6102 prohibited the "hoarding" of gold by any individual, partnership, association or corporation. Everyone, with small exceptions for tradesmen like jewelers and dentists, had to sell their gold to the Treasury before May 1st, 1933 when the price of gold was something like $23/ounce. This order was tweeked a few times in subsequent months.

2) One year later, in 1934, The Gold Reserve Act outlawed the private possession of gold. The Act also ordered the Treasury to buy gold for $35/ounce– $12 higher than the market price before the Act became law!

Understandably, American gold owners felt cheated. The Treasury's artificially high gold price also caused gold from all over the world to flow into the USA, where the Treasury was legally required to buy it. Some historians view FDR's gold policy as economic warfare and part of the lead up to WWII.

So many people were outraged by FDR's gold policy that by 1934 FDR had an epic PR battle on his hands. Franklin would need to use *everything* at his disposal to bend public will.

The point of this post, readers, is to suggest that Walt Disney began his collaboration with FDR well before the official date of 1941: Disney started his collaboration in 1934 when "The Golden Touch" began

production and FDR desperately needed help. I argue Disney's 'help' backfired on him and the Studios.

The production process for "The Golden Touch" had many unusual characteristics. Disney himself hadn't directed a cartoon in some time, but decided to 'get back in the game' and oversea "The Golden Touch" personally.

According to Dave Hand, who ran one of Disney Studio's production units:

> *"Well, it seems Walt got itchy fingers and decided HE would direct a picture. The fact that he had never directed any picture never occurred to him. So Walt took what I supposed to be a very good story, 'King Midas and the Golden Touch' from the story department. It was all pretty much 'hush-hush'. He worked on it in his business office set-up. The thing that galled me was that he assigned every one of the ten animators to his 'Midas' picture. And I had to do with the beginner guys. The other two directors had to get along with second raters, also. We directors were not invited to see any preliminary animation—nothing was shown until preview time. The cost of the picture was way over budget it was rumored. So what—they were Walt's costs. I mean to be fair minded, but to be honest, I've just got to say—it was a dismal flop. That was the first and last of Walt's directorial attempts."*

Disney historian Jim Korkis disputes Hand's version of events:

> *Of course, you have to be careful trusting even first-person accounts of events. Obviously, Walt had directed shorts before, just not while Hand was there at the studio. While the budget was high, the other Silly Symphonies for the year ranged from the $20,000-$35,000 so it wasn't wildly over the cost of some of the other Silly Symphonies that year.*
>
> The Golden Touch *was made at a cost of $35,458.19.* Music Land *that same year came in at $35,054.55 and* The Tortoise and the Hare *at $32,671.76. Of course, it could be argued that* The Golden Touch *with basically only two characters and no major special effects should have come in at a lower cost.*
>
> *Walt did not steal away ten top animators. He only took two animators: the two top animators at the studio at the time.*

Those two special animators were Norm Ferguson and Fred Moore, while storyboarding was done by Albert Hurter. Jack Kinney (who directed Disney propaganda cartoon "Der Fuehrer's Face") wrote this about "The Golden Touch" in his 1989 book *Walt Disney and Other Assorted Characters* :

> *"Burt [Gillett)]s exodus really griped Walt who said, 'Who needs him? I'll direct in his place.' And so he did, using his top animators from* The Three Little Pigs—*Norm Ferguson and Freddie Moore. Walt moved into his own music room and started making* The Golden Touch*, the King Midas story.*
>
> *"This was a very hush-hush operation, with just two animators, who were sworn to secrecy. The entire studio awaited this epic, and finally it was finished and previewed at the Alex Theater in Glendale. All personnel turned out to see what Walt had wrought. He had wrought a bomb! The Golden Touch laid a great big golden egg. That picture was the last Walt ever directed. We knew better than to discuss it, ever. It was forgotten and the studio went on to other things.*
>
> *"Years later, Walt roared into Jaxon's [Wilfred Jackson] office and started chewing him out about something or other. Jaxon was usually a very calm guy, but he was a redhead and this time he blew his cool. 'Walt,' he said, "I recollect that you once directed a picture called* The Golden Touch*.' There was instant silence. Walt stared at Jaxon, then stomped out, slamming the door.*
>
> *"As Jaxon described it, after a few beats, the door opened and Walt's head popped back in. Wearing a heavy frown and very slowly punctuating his words with his finger, he said, 'Never, ever mention that picture again.' Then he slammed the door and clumped down the hall.*
>
> *"Needless to say, it was never mentioned again."*

What I think we can take home is that "The Golden Touch" was a very secretive project that Disney was sensitive about and wanted to oversee himself. The cartoon was also a flop and I ask readers to remember that "The Golden Touch" was **unprofitable** for Disney.

"The Golden Touch" itself was part of a larger propaganda campaign supporting FDR's gold policy, which involved *Good Housekeeping* magazine, as well as other prominent media outlets. According to Jim Korkis:

> *The story [The Golden Touch] appeared in a full- page color adaptation in the November 1934 issue of Good Housekeeping magazine to publicize the upcoming release of the short. Six illustrated panels told the tale in rhyme: "A wiser, better, happier king. He's learned that gold's not everything."*
>
> *Nearly a decade later, in the comic book Walt Disney's and Comics and Stories No. 20 (**May 1942**) there was a three-page illustrated text story of the short, using the illustrations from the Good Housekeeping magazine.*
>
> *More intriguingly was that, in 1937, publisher David McKay's Whitman Publishing Company released an entire hardcover*

> *book devoted to the story from the film. In close to a 150 pages (with a black and white illustration on each page and many full-page illustrations facing text pages, as well as six full-color pictures), an uncredited writer effectively expands on the story with some interesting additions including Midas sharing his hamburger with his cat at the end of the story: "His dining hall was no use to him now, for he could not eat gold. His bathroom was equally useless, as the water would become a liquid golden mass at his touch. His bedroom would be even more useless since who could sleep between golden sheets and wighed down by a golden eiderdown?"*

"The Golden Touch" was clearly useful to FDR and his friends, but Walt Disney was not amused at being left to pay for the commercial flop. It could be that Disney was reluctant to dabble in propaganda again after getting his fingers burned on Midas…

Fast forward five years to 1940. Disney had just released to the public his personal masterpiece, *Fantasia*, which I wrote about here. Most critics loved it, except one in particular, Dorothy Thompson, who had switched her political allegiance to FDR one month before her review of *Fantasia*. (TIME called her the most influential women in the USA after Eleanor Roosevelt, FDR's wife.) Dorothy Thompson tried to destroy *Fantasia* in her *Herald Tribune* review by claiming the film was 'Nazi'! She painted Disney in colors which signaled to FDR's well-monied supporters that Disney Studios should be shunned and shamed.

In 1940 Thompson's readership was huge– in the millions– and she was one of the most widely-talked about female journalists. Just how bad was Thompson's review of *Fantasia*? From Steven Watts' *The Magic Kingdom*:

> *On November 25th 1940, Dorothy Thompson published a long review of Fantasia entitled "Minority Report"" in the New York Herald Tribune, and it set off a major imbroglio. Given the essay's extreme sentiments, it was little wonder. "I left the theater in a condition bordering on nervous breakdown. I felt as though I had been subjected to an assault," Thompson wrote. Disney's film, she asserted, was "a performance of Satanic defilement," "a remarkable nightmare, " "brutal and brutalizing." As she went on , she ratcheted her anger several notches higher: "All I could think to say of the 'experience' as I staggered out was that it was 'Nazi.' The word did not arise out of an obsession. Nazism is the abuse of power, the perverted betrayal of the best instincts, the genius of a race turned into black magical destruction and so is 'Fantasia.'" Disney and his concert film, Thompson accused, had launched an attack on "the civilized world" by providing a sick caricature of the "Decline of the West." Warming to her theme, she made two specific complaints. First the film reflected a "sadistic, gloomy, fatalistic, pantheistic," anti-humanist philosophy where "Nature is titanic; man is a moving lichen on the stone of time." Second, she insisted, Disney and Stokowski had concocted an assault on civilized culture that made a mockery of great classical composers. The degradation of the Beethoven segment alone should have been "sufficient to raise and army, if there is enough blood left in culture to defend itself," Thompson wrote angrily, before noting that she stormed out of the theater unwilling to witness the film's concluding degradation of Mussorgsky and Schubert.*

Ms. Thompson's wild accusations of Nazism and 'misuse' of classical music, as well as her preoccupation with culture wars, remind me of Herbert Marcuse's work and the 'Frankfurt School' political theorists. In two years' time FDR would employ Marcuse as part of his personal propaganda and intelligence apparatus, the OSS:

> *Marcuse worked for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) formed in 1942 to conduct psychological warfare against the Axis Powers. After the end of World War II, the pivotal section of the OSS, the Research and Analysis Branch, was assigned to the Department of State.*

Were Walt Disney and his masterwork *Fantasia* the first victims of FDR's WWII propaganda machine? Did Walt Disney, who was possibly reluctant to cooperate with FDR after "The Golden Touch", find himself on the receiving end of Franklin's media bitch-bulldog?

William Boyd of *The Guardian* says that William Stephenson, the British spy and FDR's co-conspirator in forming the OSS, used his position as head of the British Security Coordination (BSC) in New York to influence reporting at Thompson's employer, the *Herald Tribune*— influence that was well entrenched by late 1940 when Thompson wrote her take-down of *Fantasia*.

Dorothy Thompson, whose employer *The Herald Tribune*, was manipulated by British spy and FDR crony William Stephenson.

But Dorothy Thompson's attacks were not the only FDR-aligned catastrophe to hit Disney before he agreed to become Franklin's ambassador to South America.

Fantasia was not a financial success and after 1940 Disney Studios was in need of money. On top of that, they were hit by a strike on May 29th 1941, which was lead by secret Communist Party member and Soviet spy Herbert Sorrell. (Bear in mind that FDR and Stalin were allies at this time, and secret FDR collaboration with the Soviet NKGB had started at around the time of the Disney strikes. 'Wild Bill' Donovan would 'legitimize' this informal relationship between the NKGB and the OSS in 1944.) Perhaps all FDR had to do in 1941 was make a phone call?

Disney's daughter, Diane Disney Miller, says that this strike hit Disney completely out of the blue: he couldn't understand where it came from and why it had such "virulence". The strike was one of two events that Disney couldn't recover from, she says in *Walt and El Grupo*.

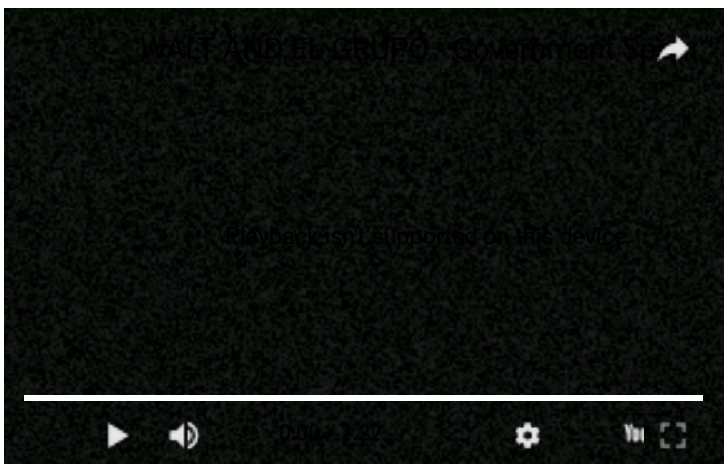
One week after the start of the strike on June 5th, FDR 'asked' Walt to take part in a US propaganda mission to South America, which is the subject of the Disney Corporation's 2008 documentary *Walt and El Grupo*. (In the documentary Walt Disney described the 1941 period in his life as "the toughest for me" and filled with " a lot of disappointments". At 08:31 you can see a brief glimpse of a memo marked "WALT" and "Bob Carr" which outlines the propaganda plans for Disney's South American trip. Bob Carr was a mayor of Orlando, Florida who oversaw the opening of the Disney theme park there. Carr's politics seem to align with FDR's.)

The Disney Studios strike wasn't resolved until the end of Walt Disney's South American tour of duty. Disney's father had died in the meantime. But what does that matter? FDR got what he wanted.

Walt Disney Studios would limp through WWII making propaganda cartoons for FDR and his Brit-spy buddies. Remember BSC asset Roald Dahl and his gremlins?

Hey, Air Force! *Merchandise!*

Walt *may have* been forced to participate in 1941 propaganda drives, but whether he was or not, he made sure that Disney Studios wouldn't loose money on disastrous government propaganda films. Consider this clip from *Walt and El Grupo,* where J B Kaufmann describes how Walt painstakingly negotiated with the US government to make sure Disney Studios wouldn't be stuck with the bill for a propaganda flop… *like what happened with "The Golden Touch"?*



Once Disney worked out the kinks in his government contracts, he cooperated fully with US Armed Forces and the Executive Branch to make many different forms of propaganda, as described here by Lisa Briner of the Army Heritage and Education Center:

An important factor ensuring America's ultimate victory over

the Axis Powers in World War II was the overwhelming and unwavering support of the Home Front. Contributing much to creating and maintaining that Home Front support were Walt Disney films. Meanwhile, morale-boosting Disney-designed insignia that soon appeared on planes, trucks, flight jackets, and other military equipment accomplished the same for American and Allied forces.

During the war Disney made films for every branch of the U.S. government. ***Typical of the films was the 1943 "The Spirit of '43" produced at the request of the Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, Jr. The film depicted Donald Duck dealing with federal income taxes and pointing out the benefit of paying his taxes in support of the American war effort.***

At the Navy's request, the Disney Studios also produced, in just three months, some 90,000 feet of training film to educate sailors on navigation tactics. ***Disney animators also worked closely with Hollywood producer Frank Capra and created what many consider to be the most brilliant animated maps to appear in a series of seven highly successful "Why We Fight" films.***

During the war, over 90 percent of Disney employees were devoted to the production of training and propaganda films. In all, the Disney Studios produced some 400,000 feet of film representing some 68 hours of continuous film.
Included among the films produced was "Der Fuehrer's Face" again featuring Donald Duck. It won the Oscar as the best animated film for 1943.

Perhaps the importance of the Disney Studios to the war effort is best demonstrated by the fact that the U.S. Army deployed troops to protect the facilities, the only Hollywood studio accorded such treatment.

(Emphasis is my own- a.nolen)

I think it's more than likely that FDR called on Disney for political support in 1934; I think it's also very likely that Disney ended up feeling cheated by FDR. When FDR's war effort got rolling, the president had to use his British illegal spy friends and their 'dirty tricks' to coerce his fellow American into jumping on board.

FDR's propaganda machine cost Disney more than just his integrity. In 1941– the year Disney became an 'official spokesperson' for the US government in South America– Disney Studios lost its brilliant special effects guru, Herman Schultheis, who was responsible for many of the revolutionary artistic effects in *Fantasia*. Herman Schultheis was German-born and probably didn't pass the US government's 'security clearance' requirements. Schultheis left Disney to work in the research library at Librascope: a huge loss for Disney Studios and American cultural heritage.

How did Walt Disney feel about his wartime propaganda efforts? He was probably too scared to ever talk about it, but I suspect the 1961 creation of kind, loveable Prof. Ludwig Von Drake with Ward Kimball (who animated *Education for Death: The Making of the Nazi*) was a type of personal penance.

—

P.S. Writing this post on Disney turned up so many interesting tidbits on Dorothy Thompson that I just have to list some here.

First of all, Dorothy made her name as a suffragette in the New York political milieu that was so heavily financed by Alva Vanderbilt Belmont, who also financed the British *agent provocateur* and war-monger Emmeline Pankhurst, and whose family money made Winston Churchill's career possible. Working for Alva as a suffragette also launched the career of Roald Dahl's political bedfellow Clare Boothe Luce.

Curiously, both Dorothy Thompson and Clare Boothe Luce were given journalistic roles after their 'suffragette' ones: Dorothy covered Hitler for *Cosmopolitan* magazine (you know– it's now a sex rag like the type George Orwell hated); while Clare Boothe Luce became an editor at both *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*, and then covered WWII for *TIME*. You could say these fabulous women paved the way for journalistic mega-millionaires like Gawker.com's Nick Denton.

Dorothy Thompson and Clare Boothe Luce both did a lot of 'agenda flip-flopping' throughout their careers– Dorothy was so bad that TIME magazine called her "iron-whimmed", though you could argue Luce wasn't much better. For most of her career Dorothy Thompson could be counted on to be a venomous 'shrieker' in support of whatever cause gained her strokes from the powerful. Dorothy paved the way for modern agenda prostitutes like Little Green Football's Charles Johnson.

Finally, Dorothy and Clare had a famous falling out over Dorothy's mid-campaign switch from supporting Wendell Wilkie's presidential bid to supporting FDR's. Since these two women are credited with shaping

many American women's political opinions at the time, you could say that Dorothy's switch had more than a touch of the Hegelian Dialectic about it. Dorothy Thompson and Clare Boothe Luce paved the way for modern democracy managers like the staff at BuzzFeed and their ex-editor Benny Johnson.

> *Mrs. Luce got into a scrap with Democrat Dorothy Thompson during the Roosevelt-Wilkie campaign, and witnessed the "almost physical pleasure" men got out of watching that fight. From this she learned that "men will turn what two women say into a hair-pulling battle, and the issue the women are fighting over will be forgotten." (From* The Christian Science Monitor*, Dec. 9th 1980).*

LEAVE A COMMENT

BANK COSMOS

Leonid Chernovetsky with Kiev-based evangelist Sunday Adelaja, founder of the Embassy of God church. Thank you, pastorsundayadelaja.blogspot.com

I had a lot of fun looking into Zhanna Kobylinska last weekend, but I couldn't do justice to Leonid Chernovetsky, the former mayor of Kiev and supporter of Ms. Kobylinska's employer, the Embassy of God church. He's a man that needs his own post.

The money behind Mr. Chernovesky comes from banking, and in my experience, you can tell a lot about a politician by watching the money. So let's do that!

1. In 1992, shortly after the fall of the USSR, Mr. Chernovetsky founded Pravex bank after having worked 1) as Kiev's chief investigator (police) and then 2) as a professor at Shevchenko National University where he studied government corruption. Sometime while teaching, Chernovetsky banded together with other teachers and his family to start what would become Pravex. Where the money came from is unclear, but Jed Sunden's *Kyiv Post* says this:

> *He [Leonid Chernovetsky] also started a consulting business, "Law, Economy, Sociology," with his university colleagues, which later became Pravex.*
>
> *"I made my first million in 1992. At the beginning, business wasn't good, and there was little need for legal consulting then," said Chernovetskiy. "At the end of 1991, the law firm started to work. It is true, though it was small money. Then there were quite a number of different projects – hard currency stores, real estate and antique auction organizations."*

Soo… we can be pretty sure that the seed money is untraceable. Wherever it came from, there was enough money to back Ukraine's eighth largest bank and compete with the large multinationals which descended on the Ukraine after *perestroika*.

2. In 2008– at the same time Mohammad Zahoor was liquidating his Ukrainian steel assets— the Chernovestsky family sold Pravex bank to Italy's megabank Intesa Sanpaolo. Why the sudden sell-offs?

In 2008 Kiev held a "snap election" after Chernovestsky had been accused of corruption– an election which Chernovestsky won and maintained his mayoral seat. Disappointed contenders included Oleksander Turchinov and famous heavyweight boxer Vitaly Klitschko, the brother of US intelligence asset Wladimir Klitschko, who flashed his dick for American foreign policy in 2009. It seems Chernovestsky's corruption scandal made oligarchs nervous, which may have sparked the sell-off. It also seems that whoever gave Pravex its seed-money had no problem passing the ball to the Italians.

3. On January 23rd 2014, just **days** before UKUSA's 'Maidan' revolution got rolling in Kiev, Intesa Sanpaolo sold Pravex to Centragas AG.

It's deals like that which give the Italians a bad name!

Centragas AG is Dmytro Firtash's Swiss holding company for his firm RosUkrEnergo. You'll remember Firtash as the oligarch who brought a libel lawsuit against Jed Sunden's *Kyiv Post,* which resulted in UK readers being blocked from kyivpost.com and set Ian Bearder from Oxford off on a self-righteous tirade. Firtash has made trouble for UKUSA spooks in the past by using the UK's byzantine libel laws against them.

I believe 1) somebody told the Italians that Maidan was coming down the pipe, and 2) the Italians didn't have faith that Maidan would be good for Ukraine's economy in the long term*. Pravex became a 'hot potato'. The Italians found a quick buyer in Firtash, the guy ticking off UKUSA spooks.

Firtash has Russian ties: his flagship company, RosUkrEnergo, of which he owns 45%, was set up with Russia's Gazprom. According to

Voice of Russia:

> *In 2004, the Ukrainian businessman and Russian Gazprom jointly set up RosUkrEnergo, a company to distribute natural gas in Ukraine and in the European Union. Due to this company's activities, Ukraine was able to acquire gas at prices well below market rates. Later that year Mr. Firtash became a major shareholder of Crimean Soda Plant (Krasnoperekopsk) and Krymskiy TITAN (Armiansk).*

Cheap gas is one of the reasons that Russia will always have its hooks in Ukraine.

In 2010, Wikileaks leaked US diplomatic messages in which the "Ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor allegedly wrote that gas-trading Ukrainian billionaire Dmytro Firtash told of needing permission from alleged Russian crime boss Semyon Mogilevich to do business in Ukraine during the lawless 1990s." *The Kyiv Post* says Firtash denied the remarks.

This is where things get weird, because Firtash was arrested in Vienna this May on an FBI (i.e. American) warrant based on his allegedly corrupt activities in India back in 2006. The arrest may also have something to do with unsubstantiated reports that Firtash is funding Maidan revolutionaries as well as the Vitaly Klitschko-led party UDAR.

So, er, Gazprom's man in Kiev, who is funding the anti-Russian Maidan protests, has been arrested by the Viennese on behalf of the FBI?! Fortunately, things are cleared up by the Americans at *Foregin Policy*, who point out that only Russia-aligned oligarchs have been 'toppled' by Maidan:

> *He [Firtash] was released after paying 125 million euros in bail, and currently remains in Austria, where he is fighting extradition to the United States.*

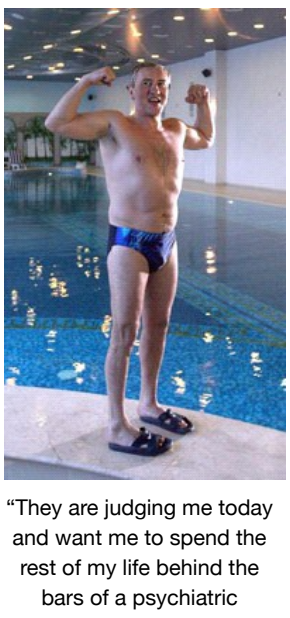
I speculate, readers, that Maidan is working so well for the Americans that they're scared to let moneybags Firtash anywhere near the revolution or Vitaly Klitschko, who is now Mayor of Kiev– the first real one since Leonid Chernovetsky disappeared.

Disappeared?! Yes, there's a part of this story yet to tell. In 2011, Chernovetsky disappeared on the job. After more corruption scandals, Chernovetsky went AWOL for a few months and eventually turned up in Israel.

> *The eccentric mayor of Kiev, who mysteriously vanished from Ukraine and has not been spotted in public for months, has reappeared in Israel on "an unofficial holiday", according to media reports.*
>
> *Leonid Chernovetsky, who bewildered Ukrainians with his bizarre antics in office and still officially retains his post, was discovered by Ukrainian television channel 1+1 in an elite district of Tel Aviv.*

Why did Chernovetsky run? Well, in November 2010, Ukranian President Viktor Yanukovych, the guy who Maidan ousted, had stripped Chernovetsky of his mayoral powers and left him as a figurehead. Chernovetsky was described as being 'like the Queen of England'.

On top of loosing his power, Chernovetsky was displaying signs of weakness, such as posing for the press in his Speedos and cozying up to weird organizations like Nigerian pastor Sunday Adelaja's 'Emabassy of God'. Chernovetsky's bizarre behavior has earned him the nickname "Lenny Cosmos". If Chernovetsky isn't soft in the head, then he's very good at making people think he is. I'm sure that by late 2010, twenty years' worth of enemies smelled blood in the water.



"They are judging me today and want me to spend the rest of my life behind the bars of a psychiatric hospital," Mr. Chernovetsky said. "Look at my body, at how I express my thoughts. I am absolutely healthy. I think logically and philosophically."

Which brings me to my final point about where Chernovetsky's Pravex banking money came from. From my experience, managing money well is hard, and managing *a lot* of money well is even more difficult. People who manage money well don't have time for weird media escapades, questionable charities or public office. Anytime a figure acts like Chernovetsky, you can be sure he's just a front for someone else's money and the real brains are elsewhere. Where? Chernovestsky sold out to the Italians and has had Israeli citizenship since 1994, two years after he got into the banking business. Also, he's not in a Viennese jail.

*(If Ukraine-shipped Russian gas becomes unreliable, 'Western Europe' would depend on buying Russian energy through Moscow-aligned Belarus, or the German-aligned Nord route, or through countries like Turkey-Georgia-Azerbaijan. Or NATO-groupies could do something

totally crazy like build a pipe through Iraq-Syria-Israel.)

LEAVE A COMMENT

RAINBOW BRITE DOES ZUNZUNEO

Thank you, maahs.deviantart.com

I've noticed an uptick in people hitting my site having searched for 'Jed Sunden' lately.

"Great," I thought, "He's back in the news." So I did a 'Google News' search on Jed and came up with a surprising result. I think the story that's prompting people to search for Jed is actually about someone else altogether: Zhanna Kobylinska.

Zhanna Kobylinska is a Ukraine-based PR pro who started her own blog in 2012; this is what Jed Sunden's former asset, *The Kyiv Post*, says about Ms. Kobylinska's new media project:

> Editor's Note: Kyiv public relations specialist Zhanna Kobylinska's "Good News Ukraine" blog sticks to uplifting news and steers clear of controversy. Readers can send news items to Kobylinska at positiveukraine@gmail.com

The Kyiv Post lets Ms. Kobylinska write her own articles promoting her own blog which is called 'Good News Ukraine'. Tagline: "The greatest Ukraine's treasure is people loving and respecting the country."

Kobylinska's biographic blurb states:

> *Kyiv resident Zhanna Kobylinska initiated the Ukrainian public project 'Go Ukraine! Let's Go!, which can be found on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/groups/positiveukraine/.*

Zhanna Kobylinska's avatar for her *Kyiv Post* series on rainbows and unicorns.

'Good News Ukraine' is filled with sunshine-y tidbits like international youth meet-ups, music news, and numbered lists about feel-good topics *à la* BuzzFeed. 'Good News Ukraine' reminds me of ZunZuneo, USAID's political psy-op in Cuba, which aimed to worm its way into the Cuban public's trust with feel-good, gossipy news stories and then surreptitiously insert anti-Havana political propaganda.

Is that what 'Good News Ukraine' is about too? A Ukraine-targeted ZunZuneo?

> *Though we still face probl.in East & Crimea is still not back to Ukraine, we do have good news http://t.co/Eg2ts7vol1 pic.twitter.com/sTUpkXCp0W*
>
> *— Ukraine's Emb. to US (@UkrEmbassyUSA) June 6, 2014*

Ms. Kobylinska's blog is getting press attention again for some reason– take this Swiss puff-piece, for example.

It's not a good sign that *The Kyiv Post*, American agent Jed Sunden's old baby, is giving Kobylinska a weekly microphone. But where does Ms. Kobylinska come from? What is her history?

I can't definitively answer those questions, but I can tell you that the first reference I've found online about Zhanna Kobylinska comes from a blurb in *The Kyiv Post* on April 8th 2011: *(You can click on it to make the text a little larger.)*

ZHANNA KOBYLINSKA
was appointed public relations manager for the www.ukraine-cityguide.com Internet portal, which was created to support the development of tourism in Ukraine and is owned by a non-governmental organization called Trust Development Ukraine.
Prior to the appointment, Kobylinska worked for 10 years at the SBU state security service of Ukraine and for two years as press secretary for the Kyiv-based Embassy of God Church.
Kobylinska, who will continue working as a spokesperson for the church, is a graduate of the National Academy of State Security Service.

From the April 8th 2011 *Kyiv Post*.

Note that Zhanna worked for the "SBU state security service of Ukraine" for ten years before she was a church spokesperson. Weird enough? The Embassy of God church in Kiev is supported by former mayor Leonid Chernovetsky, and appears to be a Christian Zionist organization judging by their press in CharismaNews.com. The church has been accused of having ties to organized crime.

Zhanna Kobylinska's next *probable* appearance happened through a 2012 post on BYUkraine.com: a 'Zhanna Kobylinska' wrote this cheery piece about Easter eggs which is also great PR for the Ukraine.

BYUkraine.com is the address of 'Blue and Yellow: Life in Ukraine' and is run by a Brit called Ian Bearder. 'Blue and Yellow' provides internet content about Ukraine and was started in late 2011, about the same time Jed Sunden would have begun his latest Ukrainian internet content company, 'Internet Investments'. (Jed Sunden has removed information about 'Internet Investments' from his LinkedIn page since I last wrote about him.)

Ukraine-minded Brit Ian Bearder.

When Ian Bearder isn't running 'Blue and Yellow', he's campaigning for a seat in the European Parliament! From his Facebook profile:

> *Ian Bearder is a Liberal Democrat candidate for the 2014 European elections. His unique European expertise and his strong commitment to regional development make him an excellent candidate for the South East region.*

And…

> *Born in Hertford Heath in 1978, Ian grew up in Oxfordshire. After studying Software Engineering Management at Bournemouth University, he split his time between his work as an IT consultant and travel. Between 2003 and 2009 he visited all 49 European countries, an experience which sparked a deep interest in European affairs and international politics.*
>
> *Ian has been a long-time Liberal Democrat campaigner, standing as a candidate in Oxford in 2004, 2006 and in 2008. For the past five years he has represented the UK Liberal Democrats at the annual pan-European Liberal Democrat (ELDR) party congress and is a co-opted member of the national European Liberal Democrats (LDEG) executive.*
>
> *After completing a masters degree in European Politics in Hungary in 2009, Ian spent two years living and working as a broadcast journalist in Ukraine.*

It should surprise no one that Mr. Bearder's 'Blue and Yellow' site is extremely supportive of the Maidan revolution in Ukraine; Ian's Facebook page is very critical of Putin.

Bearder's "IT consultant" experience includes working for ERTICO, a partnership of big-name American and European multinationals:

> *ERTICO – ITS Europe represents the interests and expertise of around 100 Partners involved in providing Intelligent Transport Systems and Services (ITS). It facilitates the safe, secure, clean, efficient and comfortable mobility of people and goods in Europe through the widespread deployment of*

ITS.

Here's a list of ERTICO "partners", which include companies like IBM.

Ian Bearder, the Brit who just happened to alight in Eastern Europe after a whirl-wind tour of the continent, is a creature of UKUSA. If his publication was an early sounding board for happy-smiley Zhanna Kobylinska, then we know what she is too.

Ian Bearder has one more *possible* connection to Jed Sunden. In late 2010, RosUkrEnergo co-owner Dmytro Firtash filed a libel lawsuit against *The Kyiv Post* which resulted in the website denying access to UK users for some time. An 'Ian Bearder' from Oxford wrote a letter to the editors of *The Kyiv Post* full of righteous indignation about Firtash's actions and advice as to how *The Kyiv Post* should restore website access to UK readers. Read the full tirade here.

If our two Ian Bearders from Oxford are the same, they've been invested in *The Kyiv Post's* agenda for some time.

I think it's painfully obvious that Zhanna Kobylinska is backed by Jed Sunden's patrons and *The Kyiv Post's* creepy new owner, Mohammad Zahoor. I've provided circumstantial evidence that she's connected to Ian Bearder and that Ian Bearder is aligned with Sunden/Zahoor. I suggest that these three are a pathetic troika of weak propagandists who are trying to pin a smiley face onto Anglo-American adventurism in the Ukraine.

Poor show.

P.S. For a little Saturday fun, check out this review of *Rainbow Brite and the Star Stealer*, which also speaks to US propaganda efforts across the globe! Attention James Clapper: you should get 'GaryReviews' to preview + approve your projects prior to the $$$. Best. Contractor. Ever. Will save billions on 'hearts and minds'!

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LEAVE A COMMENT

A DEATH IN FINLAND

Leonid Andreyev stands before one of his own drawings, 1909.

A few months ago, I wrote about Leonid Andreyev's final book, *Satan's Diary*. This is an extraordinary work that probably inspired Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*.

What's remarkable about Andreyev's book is that it describes rich Americans' role in the Russian Revolution via the fictionalized account of 'Henry Wondergood'. Wondergood is actually Satan, who masquerades as a billionaire philanthropist from Illinois. The history which *Satan's Diary* describes is dangerous to talk about even today.

The only non-fiction book I'm aware of that tries to explain rich Americans' involvement in setting up the Bolshevik government is Anthony Sutton's *Wall Street and the Bolshevik Revolution*. It's not often discussed in 'safe' historical research, because that type of 'research' is usually funded by bequests from wealthy philanthropists. From AnthonySutton.com:

> *Professor Richard Pipes of Harvard said in his book,* Survival Is Not Enough: Soviet Realities and America's Future *(Simon & Schuster;1984): "In his three-volume detailed account of* Soviet Purchases of Western Equipment and Technology *. . . [Antony] Sutton comes to conclusions that are*

> *uncomfortable for many businessmen and economists. For this reason his work tends to be either dismissed out of hand as 'extreme' or, more often, simply ignored."*

However, if you study Soviet/Russian literature it's pretty hard to ignore rich Americans' and Brits' support of the Bolsheviks: the best Russian writers were drawn to the cynicism and hypocrisy behind the new government in Moscow.

Leonard Andreyev was a child of the revolution who ended up being 'eaten' by it, much like Vsevolod Meyerhold. Andreyev's literary patron in the USSR was Maxim Gorky, a close friend of Lenin and the state's literary gatekeeper. This is how Countess Tolstoy described Andreyev's writing:

> *"The poor new writers, like Andreyev, succeed only in concentrating their attention on the filthy point of human degradation and uttered a cry to the undeveloped, half-intelligent reading public, inviting them to see and to examine the decomposed corpses of human degradation and to close their eyes to God's wonderful, vast world, with the beauties of nature, with the majesty of art, with the lofty yearnings of the human soul, with the religious and moral struggles and the great ideals of goodness– even with the downfall, misfortunes and weaknesses of such people as Dostoyevsky depicted… In describing all these every true artist should illumine clearly before humanity not the side of filth and vice, but should struggle against them by illumining the highest ideals of good, truth, and the triumph over evil, weakness, and the vices of mankind… I should like to cry out loudly to the whole world in order to help those unfortunate people whose wings, given to each of them for high flights toward the understanding of the spiritual light, beauty, kindness, and God, are clipped by these Andreyevs."*

I hope readers will see why debased writing is useful for revolutionaries; this type of art aggravates discontent and demoralization which can then be deflected onto the targeted 'regime'. I recommend reading the "Politicized Warfare: 'Black' and 'White' Propaganda" section of this University of Warwick essay.

> *Enemy soldiers were fed a diet of dance music, seedy entertainment and soft pornography (interspersed with advice on malingering) through one such 'black' station known as the 'Soldatensender Calais'. Crossman even claimed that there was an 'Astrological Programme' whose audience inside Germany probably consisted of about forty individuals at most, but which it was believed was popular with senior members of the Nazi Party.[33] Its aim was to play on the fact that many senior Nazis were known to have an interest in astrology, feeding them gloomy astrological predictions about their military campaigns.*

Andreyev was celebrated by powerful revolutionaries as long as he was on their side, but when Andreyev became disillusioned with the Bolsheviks, he was blacklisted and forced into exile. By 1919, Andreyev had become a dangerous liability to the Bolsheviks and their American supporters.

The Soviet authorities are famous for how closely they spied on, and how cunningly they controlled, artists under their sway: the sad fate of Bulgakov is a testimony to this. When Andreyev ran to Finland, did his spook handlers just disappear too?

I invite readers to examine the character of Andreyev's American translator, Herman Bernstein, who wrote this preface to his 1920 edition of *Satan's Diary*:

> *PREFACE TO SATAN'S DIARY*
>
> *Leonid Andreyev's last work was completed by the great Russian a few days before he died in Finland, in September 1919. But a few years ago the most popular and successful of Russian writers, Andreyev died almost penniless, a sad, tragic figure, disillusioned, broken-hearted over the tragedy of Russia.*
>
> *A year ago Leonid Andreyev wrote me that he was eager to come to America, to study this country and familiarize Americans with the fate of his unfortunate countrymen. I arranged for his visit to this country and informed him of this by cable. But on the very day I sent my cable the sad news came from Finland announcing that Leonid Andreyev died of heart failure.*

Reading that excerpt made my hair stand on end. Why? Andreyev fled Russia for Finland ready to warn Americans about what was really going on under the Bolsheviks. He told his translator, Herman Bernstein, about his intention to talk in America; Bernstein took charge of the travel arrangements which, strangely, dragged on for over a year. A few days before Andreyev was finally set to go, he died of heart failure.

Who was Herman Bernstein?

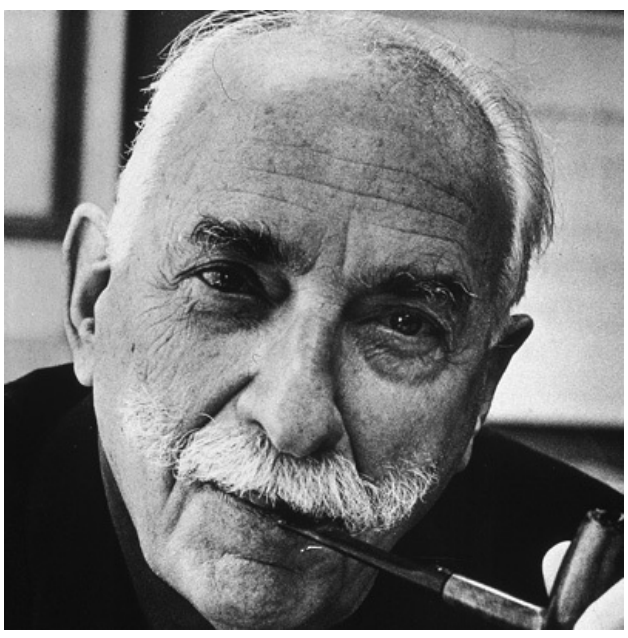
Herman Bernstein, just prior to being made ambassador to Albania by Herbert Hoover.

Herman Bernstein wasn't just any old translator, but a deeply connected political operator within the Wilson and Hoover administrations. Herman Bernstein was the Wolf Blizter of his day; he was sent with the American Expeditionary Forces to Russia to 'report' on the war much like Winston Churchill 'reported' on the Boer War and Nick Denton 'reported' on the fall of communism in Hungary for the *FT*. Herman Bernstein was a propagandist who worked for the same interests that backed Woodrow Wilson and Herbert Hoover: wealthy, Anglo-American financiers and other assorted billionaires. Henry Wondergoods.

I propose, readers, that Andreyev was being watched– and probably 'contained'– by friends of the Bolsheviks overseas and that Bernstein was one of these 'watchers'.

Bernstein was a very busy man in the years leading up to Andreyev's death. He was sent to cover the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 as well as the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, where Germany was unjustly saddled with crushing reparations payments to the UK and France. (New York financial interests were *heavily* represented throughout the post-WWI peace negotiations and had spies in the US delegation who leaked confidential treaty information to favored bankers back in NYC.)

Apart from his journalistic work, Bernstein made a career out of leaking documents, a set of which were published by Alfred Knopf in 1918 as *The Willy-Nicky Correspondence: Being the Secret and Intimate Telegrams Exchanged Between the Kaiser and the Tsar* which included a foreword by Theodore Roosevelt (US president 1901-1909). This leaked correspondence painted the Kaiser as a monster at a time when Anglo-American elitists were working hard to prove that Germany was solely responsible for WWI and therefore justify their demand for crushing 'reparations' payments. The economic privation caused by these reparations, and the economic mismanagement they resulted in (people were starving in Germany), is often credited with fueling the rise of National Socialism. Regular readers will remember that Alfred Knopf was a favored publisher amongst the FDR/Churchill spy network.



Alfred Abraham Knopf, publisher of Herman Bernstein and British 'illegal' spy Roald Dahl.

Bernstein ran amongst the highest levels of Anglo-American war propagandists. Bear this in mind when you evaluate the attention Bernstein paid to Andreyev in 1919: it was extremely important to America's power elite to sanitize what Andreyev might say. The political import of Andreyev's message was on par with painting Germany as the aggressor in WWI.

Why haven't we all heard of *Satan's Diary*?!

Bernstein had excellent literary connections in Russia and the United States, both before and after the Bolshevik Revolution. He corresponded with all the big names, from Count Tolstoy to Leon Trotsky. Bernstein's contacts meant he had extraordinary access to writers like Andreyev, for whom he became a literary gatekeeper responsible for translating much of Andreyev's work into English– eight works between 1909 and 1923. Andreyev was a literary superstar who needed careful 'handling'.

Bernstein served his masters' interests so well that Hoover made

him ambassador to Albania from 1930-1933. He spent the rest of his life championing Zionism and the state of Israel.

When I read that excerpt from the preface to *Satan's Diary*, I don't hear a concerned friend of Andreyev. I hear the words deft behind-the-scenes operator who's just solved a problem for his bosses. It's not good for men like Bernstein to have disillusioned Russian revolutionaries talk about 'Henry Wondergoods' to the conservative American masses.

IF Bernstein was a gatekeeper, why not have Andreyev's work burned? Why take on the dangerous task of translating it into English? Andreyev was a very celebrated author; people outside of the intelligence community knew about what he was writing and his views. A book by Andreyev simply couldn't just disappear– that's why Andreyev was so dangerous once he became disillusioned. The next best thing for Bernstein and his patrons was to control the reception of *Satan's Diary:* one way to do this was to control how it was translated. If you read Bernstein's preface, it's full of nebulous phrases like: [Andreyev was] "disillusioned, heart-broken over the tragedy of Russia"; [*Satan's Diary* is an] "absorbing satire on human life"; or "He [Andreyev] portrayed Satan coming to this earth to amuse himself and play".

All of those phrases are grotesque generalizations designed to obfuscate: Andreyev was disillusioned, specifically, with Bernstein's friends the Bolsheviks and their billionaires; *Satan's Diary* is a satire of the Bolshevik government's hypocritical funders; and Satan came to do exactly as the Bolshevik's American funders **did**. Bernstein's weasel-words remind me of Bill Colby's attempt to push blame for his drug-dealing off onto 'the CIA in general'!

I wish that I had a copy of the original Russian version of *Satan's Diary*; given the provenance of Bernstein, I can't help believe that the Russian version is far more cutting and explicit in its satire of America's 'great and good'.

1 COMMENT

A CALL FOR PAPERS

Last week three prominent members of the US military put their support behind a study from The Palm Center which suggests that the US Military should lift their ban on openly transgendered service members.

I was not surprised by this development: considering the military's 2011 decision to support openly gay soldiers, supporting openly transgendered ones seems like the logical next step.

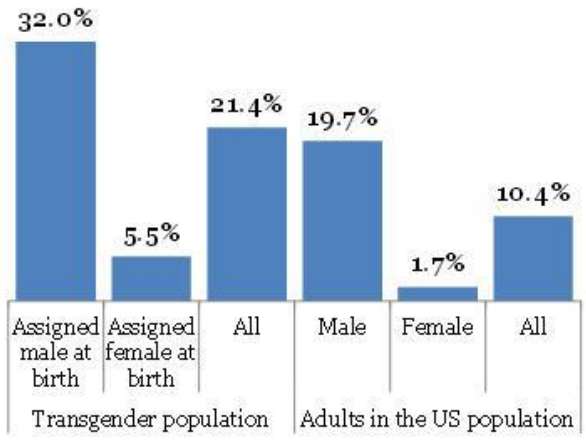
What did surprise me was that these prominent military figures, which include a former Army acting surgeon general and a former chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, threw their weight behind a report that says 15,500 transgender members actively serve in the military, while 134,300 "Veteran retired Guard/Reserve" are transgendered. That means one in a hundred active US military personnel are transgendered.

Lt Col Jennifer Natalya Pritzker, of the billionaire Chicago family, 'anonymously' donated $1.35 million to the Palm Center to fund research on integrating the transgendered community into the US military, says Advocate.com. *Thank you, chicagophoenix.com for image.*

15,500 active transgendered military personnel is a huge number; the estimate's validity is bolstered by the fact that two distinguished military medical professionals– who ought to know about the populations they serve– authored the report in question.

These estimates come from UCLA Law Center's Williams Institute, which also estimates that transgendered individuals are much more likely to serve in the military than the US population in general:

Figure 2. Adjusted estimates of service in the armed forces among transgender individuals and estimates of service by adults in the US, by sex or sex assigned at birth.



This is how the estimates' creators, Gary J. Gates and Jody L. Herman, describe their findings:

> *By comparison, approximately 10.7% of adults in the US have served. This implies that transgender individuals are about twice as likely as adults in the US to have served their country in the armed forces. Transgender individuals assigned female at birth are nearly three times more likely than all adult women and those assigned male at birth are 1.6 times more likely than all adult men to serve.*

The transgendered community's devotion to the armed services exists *despite* persistent discrimination from the defense establishment: the military has banned openly transsexual people from serving. On top of that, I find it extraordinary that a persecuted minority is drawn to an organization which, at least for the past sixty years, has been used to force the will of a few people on less powerful countries around the globe.

This apparent anomaly begs the question: what is it about the US military that attracts so many transgendered individuals? Gary and Herman have provided statistical evidence that demands further research.

Are statistics for homosexual people in the military also so striking? Yes, they are. Gary Gates, the same researcher as before, wrote a paper in 2004 for the Urban Institute, here are some select quotes:

> *Estimates suggest that more than 36,000 gay men and lesbians are serving in active duty, representing 2.5 percent of active duty personnel. When the guard and reserve are included,nearly 65,000 men and women in uniform are likely gay or lesbian, accounting for 2.8 percent of military personnel.*

[In an entirely different paper, Gary Gates estimates that 1.7% of the US population identifies as homosexual, so gays appear strongly over-represented in the military. -a.nolen]
Continuing from Gates' 2004 paper:

> *In particular, military service rates for coupled lesbians far exceed rates for other women in every military era of the later 20th century. Nearly one in 10 coupled lesbians age 63–67 report that they served in Korea, compared with less than one in 100 of other women. Even in the most recent service period from 1990 to 2000, service rates among coupled lesbians age 18–27 are more than three times higher than rates among other women*
>
> *Nearly one million gay and lesbian Americans are veterans.*
>
> *The District of Columbia leads all states with a rate of 10.2 gay or lesbian veterans per one thousand adults, more than double the national average.*

Homosexuals have shown this eagerness to serve despite institutional discrimination:

> *Despite a variety of rules designed to keep gay men and lesbians out of military service, census data make clear that they are actively serving in the armed forces, in guard and reserve units, and have served in the military throughout the later part of the 20th century.*

Again, homosexuals' draw to the military– despite the organization's historically discriminatory stance — is something that is difficult for me to understand. Are homosexuals drawn to the military for the same reasons as transgendered service members?

Many of you know that I'm interested in 'spooky' things, so my next question… Is the LGBT community also overrepresented in the intelligence community? Seeing as a lot of spook talent is derived from the military, my hunch is that they are. What's tricky about this question is that it's very hard to count spooks given the secretive nature of their work– you never know if you're getting a representative sample of the intelligence community. (Unless you're somebody like DNI James Clapper, but even he may not know about all his contractors!:))

The best most people can do– probably the best most professional intelligence historians can do– is look to history for individuals who are now known agents and were also part of the LGBT community.

The most famous homosexual intelligence professionals are Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt, who were Soviet double agents and half of 'The Cambridge Five', of who only four are known conclusively. Burgess and Blunt were known homosexuals at a time it was illegal to be so; yet these two men also held sensitive positions in the UK government. (Between the known four spies, they infiltrated MI5, MI6, the Foreign Office, the War Ministry and Blunt even became an advisor to the Royal Family!). **I don't want to get hung up on their traitorous actions.** What I do want to point out is that even back in the 1940s homosexuals were represented amongst the UK intelligence community's 'best and brightest'. Both the British and the Soviets recognized something exceptional about Burgess and Blunt.

The Soviets chose to recruit and cultivate these two highly-placed, homosexual spies over a period of thirty years. That's a huge investment which the Russians wouldn't have made unless the pair showed exceptional intelligence talent. There were *plenty* of prominent Brits with socialist sympathies; there were plenty of well-placed Brits in the Communist Party who the Soviets could have recruited (See *Secrets of the Service*, by Anthony Glees); but it was a group of disproportionately gay agents who were the 'jewel in the Soviets' crown'– agents who were recruited despite the obvious vulnerabilities their sexuality presented at the time.

History provides far more examples of LGBT agents than just Burgess and Blunt. Gabriel Pascal, the Hollywood movie-man who put British spy Roald Dahl in touch with FDR was homosexual; Julia Child's husband Paul Cushing Child, who was in charge of USIA propaganda in Germany after WWII was likely bisexual; FBI's J. Edgar Hoover, who left such an indelible mark on US intelligence *worldwide*, was likely bisexual (and is rumored to have dressed as a woman for sex parties); Hoover's

partner both at the FBI and domestically, Clyde Anderson Tolson was also likely gay; Joan Cassidy, the famous US Navy intelligence office was homosexual; Whittaker Chambers was homosexual. These eight people are just the intel pros I can think of off the top of my head– most of them were heavy-hitters in the intelligence community. Considering that homosexuality was frowned upon amongst the general public, there are probably many more examples.

What about less well-placed spooks? Ironically, the turmoil caused by the gradual discovery of the Cambridge Five sheds light on just how many homosexual agents have contributed to the intelligence community.The 'Lavender Scare' of the 1950s and 60s specifically targeted homosexuals and sought to remove them from sensitive positions in the government. In the words of Tracey Ballard, an intelligence agent who came out in the 1980s:

> *Hundreds of gay men and women were purged from government agencies in the '50s and '60s. But Ballard says that charge — that gays were a blackmail risk — was always false.*
>
> *"If you do research within the community over the decades, you'll find that it really wasn't an issue," she says. "LGBT people were not blackmailed in any type, any way or form. That was their way of ensuring that we were not employed."*

Trudy Ring, Advocate.com reporter, wrote this in a review of a documentary about the 'Lavender Scare':

> *Cassidy was one of thousands who either resigned or were fired because of the order, which she says initiated a "witch hunt."*

From the side of the 50s-60s persecutors, a Mr. Clevenger gives this congressional testimony on April 24th, 1950:

> *It is an established fact that Russia makes a practice of keeping a list of sex perverts in enemy countries and the core of Hitler's espionage was based on the intimidation of these unfortunate people.*
>
> *Despite this fact however, the Under Secretary of State recently testified that 91 sex perverts had been located and fired from the Department of State. For this the Department must be commended. But have they gone far enough? Newspaper accounts quote Senate testimony indicating there are 400 more in the State Department and 4,000 in Government…*
>
> *Here we find that the Commerce Department has not located any homosexuals in their organization. Are we to believe that in the face of the testimony of the District of Columbia police that 75 percent of the 4,000 perverts in the District of Columbia are employed by the Government, that the Department of Commerce has none?*

[In *The Haunted Wood*, Weinstein and Vassiliev detail Soviet penetration of the State Department; the department which Soviets codenamed 'Surrogate'. -a.nolen]

It seems experts agree that prior to 1950s, homosexuals were well represented in the US government and at the intel-sensitive State Department in particular.* This speaks well toward their representation in the intelligence community.

What about today? Any investigation into the LGBT contribution to intelligence is hard because, of course, current agents cannot identify them selves as such. Therefore, the best anybody (besides James Clapper!) can do is make an educated guess about who works with intelligence, and amongst that subset look at who identifies as LGBT or is likely part of the community.

Here are some prominent LGBT intel candidates: Peter Thiel (Palantir co-investor with CIA's In-Q-Tel) is gay; high-profile Tor promoter Jacob Appelbaum is homosexual/bisexual; FBI asset/Advocate.com contributor 'Laurelai' and former analyst Chelsea Manning are transgendered; intel-affliated media baron Nick Denton is homosexual; Snowden clean-up crew Laura Poitras and Glenn Greenwald are homosexual; the CIA's porn king Hugh Hefner is likely bisexual; Anderson Cooper was/is a gay CIA agent. Those are nine high-profile LGBT people who are *probably* serving their country this very minute.

I have no way of knowing whether that list is a representative sample of high-profile intelligence professionals, but the fact that even I could come up with nine candidates in the time I took to type the preceding paragraph suggests that the LGBT community has an active roll in today's intelligence 'sphere'. I don't think an active roll should be surprising, given exceptional LGBT participation in the military.

But what about the spook rank-and-file? Are homosexuals persecuted at government agencies today? According to Michael Barber, the CIA's LGBT Community Outreach and Liaison program manager:

> *More than 200 CIA employees are members of the agency's LGBT resource group today. The spy agency is one of the founding partners of Outserve, an organization that represents gay active military personnel, including those with the CIA.*
>
> *Barber says there were always gay men and women doing important jobs at the agency, but until recently few were comfortable being out.*
>
> *"Part of the reason we're doing outreach is to change that perception in the community," he says. "That this is no longer an issue for holding security clearance, that we want the best and the brightest regardless of your sexual orientation."*

Given intel attitudes before 'The Cambridge Five' and the attitude of the CIA (at least) today, perhaps it's more accurate to say that excluding gays from intelligence work during the 50s and 60s was a deviation from the norm.

Check out this recent press release from James Clapper's office (Director of National Intelligence), announcing an Advocate.com article about a transgendered CIA employee's 'transition'.

I'm not saying that every great intelligence professional is or was gay, nor even that homosexuals are overrepresented in the intelligence community as a whole. (It may be true, but don't have access to that type of data!) However, having read a fair amount about the history of the Western world's modern intelligence services, it strikes me how many prominent intelligence pros– people who are in the public eye and must therefore be exceptionally reliable– were and are homosexual, bisexual or transgendered. The prevalence of homosexuality amongst talented, prominent and celebrated intelligence professionals deserves academic study.

Now that the US military has taken steps to shake off the nearly global prejudice against LGBT people, I challenge the security-cleared research community to investigate just what role this exceptional minority has played in shaping the US military, and organizations like the CIA, NSA and FBI, into what they have become today.

Here are some questions to get the pros started:

1) Was homosexuality really a blackmail risk? If it was, why were so many LGBT agents employed by intelligence agencies prior to 1950? What was special about the 50s and 60s that changed intelligence leaderships' perspective so abnormally?

2) What is it about the military lifestyle that appeals to the LGBT community despite active persecution?

3) Are LGBT professionals statistically overrepresented in high-trust intelligence positions?

—

* The D.C.'s total population in 1950 was 814,000, if *at least* 4000 LGBT individuals were employed by the government in D.C.'s ten square miles alone; and if Gates' estimate of 3.5% LGBT across the population holds; and if the government accounted for 29% of D.C. employment back in the 1950s too, then the LGBT community was probably over-represented in government prior to the 50s and 60s. (4000 'caught' LGBT individuals who were employed by the government makes them alone 1.7% of total government employees in D.C.) I doubt as many as one in two LGBT individuals were counted by the press or police; the 4000 figure probably represents a more vocal/outgoing segment of the LGBT population.

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